

**IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Schucker, R.

EXAMINER: Singh, Prem

SERIAL NO.: 10/826,621

ART UNIT: 1764

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DOCKET NO: 158056/100792-02

TITLE: Desulfurization of Petroleum Streams Using Metallic Sodium

Mail Stop AMENDMENTS

Commissioner of Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In the office action of July 12, 2006, claims 1-23 were pending. The examiner has rejected claim 12, 17, 18 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, and rejected all claims as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in light of Baird in combination with a variety of references. In response, applicant is amending the claims to overcome the 112 rejections, and amending claims 5 and 17 to more clearly claim the temperature limitation recited therein. The amendments to claims 5 and 17 are not made for patentability purposes. Support for the amendments to claim 5 and 17 can be found on page 3, lines 19-20 of the specification. In response to the 103 rejections, applicant is submitting argument supported by the declaration of Dr. Schucker.

Argument

The examiner has rejected all claims as obvious in light of the Baird in conjunction with various references. However, applicant believes the reliance on Baird is improper, and traverses as follows.